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From: StClair, Christie
Sent: Thur 8/27/2015 7:57:09 PM
Subject: top-line messaging - David, is this what you were looking for?

Cost estimates of response activities

EPA is still assessing the status of the Gold King Mine and the waters affected by this incident. We will then work with state and local authorities, along with the affected communities, to develop a work plan for the site, along with a cost estimate.

Funding sources for the remediation of the site will be determined based on these determinations.

Blow-out risks at other mines

EPA is conducting an extensive review of its work at mines across the country, including an assessment of the risk of accidental adit blow-outs due to investigation or cleanup activities. The review will provide recommendations on minimizing the risk of blowouts and strengthening emergency response activities.

Agency's work at nearby mines right now

The relationship between the water in the Sunnyside Gold Mine and other mines in the area is a complex topic. Many of the mines in the area either intersect the same geologic structures and/or are in close proximity to the same structures.

EPA will be working with The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) and the Animas River Stakeholder Group (ARSG) to evaluate the Gold King Mine release and its impact on conditions in the area to determine if additional measures are necessary to address potential discharges.

Document Redactions

Redactions to documents occur to protect EPA employees' privacy and security, under FOIA exemption (b) (6), or because an EPA contractor has made a claim of confidential business information (CBI).

Precautions and Consistency with Plans

The EPA site removal investigation team developed a work plan with the involvement of both the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety and Animas River Stakeholder Group. These groups have extensive experience with the mine workings, and evaluating and working on mine sites. Based on their professional expertise and their experience with other mines in the region, the group did not believe there was a high probability of an adit blowout. The removal team was following the work plan when the release occurred. More details are available in the agency's internal review. The Department of the Interior is also conducting an independent investigation of the incident.

Financial support for local governments

In the event of a release (or threatened release) of hazardous substances, EPA may reimburse local governments for expenses related to the release and associated emergency response measures. The Local Governments Reimbursement (LGR) Program provides a "safety net" of up to \$25,000 per incident to local governments that do not have funds available to pay for response actions.

Superfund status for Animas

EPA continues to work with our partners and stakeholders to determine the best path forward in addressing mining impacts in the Animas River watershed. Clean up of mining sites can be very expensive and take multiple years to accomplish. Superfund has really good public participation provisions that has us engage communities affected by actual and potential Superfund National Priorities List sites about cleanup decisions, including the decision to list a site. NPL identifies the most serious sites that the EPA has designated to be eligible for long-term cleanup.

When the EPA proposes to add a site to the National Priorities List (NPL), the Agency publishes a public notice about its intention in the Federal Register. The EPA also issues a public notice through the local media to notify the community, so interested members of the community can comment on the proposal. The EPA must respond to the comments it receives. After

consideration of those comments and weighing other factors, the Agency may proceed with adding a site to the NPL.